

see Lib. 17:106
117

1847?
July 13, 1848?



To the Editor of the Liberator.

87

Dear Sir— (No 8)

(My attention, in the Liberator of the 2^d Inst., is called to a paragraph, quoted from a letter which I wrote on the subject of holding a Liberty Party Convention; and in which I allude to the course of action adopted by Messrs. Birney, Goddard, and other great men, prominent members of the Liberty Party.

My design in that communication certainly was not to accuse you, and the friends of the Anti-Slavery Cause, with whom you are in feeling so strongly allied of having done anything wrong in regard to the Anti-Slavery cause; or that, individually, I believed you had mingled with that sacred cause, other and exciting topics. I knew that Mr. Birney, Mr. Goddard, and some others, whom I had ever esteemed as good and great men, had accused you of it. I knew that you, whom I esteemed their equal in every thing, had denied the accusation. Of that controversy, I had never thoroughly investigated the merits, and can truly say, had made up no decided opinion. I was never a partizan of either in that controversy. Having the most perfect confidence in the integrity of yourself, and those with whom you acted, as well as in such men as Birney and

Goodell, and other great and good men whom I could name, and who, in that unhappy controversy, were opposed to you, I persuaded myself that the difficulty had arisen in some sad mistake, or misunderstanding, which must be left for time to elucidate, and rectify. When the Liberty Party was formed, my judgment led me to adopt its principles. I found myself in that party, associated with Birney, and Goodell, and Gerrit Smith, and the Arturs Tappan, and Samuel E. Sewall, and a host of other great and good men; some of whom I knew had accused you of introducing into, and mingling with, anti-slavery, & extraneous topics, to some of which your editorial alludes. I so far became identified with them as to be one, a humble one, of the Liberty Party.

When I saw such men as Birney & Goodell, claiming Gerrit Smith as a coadjutor, mixing up with the simple principles of the Liberty Party, a variety of extraneous topics, I confess I was mortified at what seemed to me to be gross inconsistency of good and great men, and calculated to be seriously injurious to a cause which was near and dear to my heart. My design, in my letter, was simply to call attention to what I thought inconsistent in the conduct of those friends, with views and opinions previously expressed by them. I did not mean to give any opinion of my own, as to the fact whether you, Sir, had or not mingled with the anti-slavery cause, extraneous topics. I used the word We, as I should have done, in writing to you an account of the result of an election of a Mayor of our little City. As the case

might be, I should say ~~We~~ have elected a Whig or Democratic Mayor, though I might have been opposed to the prevailing Candidate, and voted against him. My object was to call attention to what impressed me as inconsistent in their conduct, to which I alluded; not to accuse you, or the American Anti-Slavery Society, of any thing.

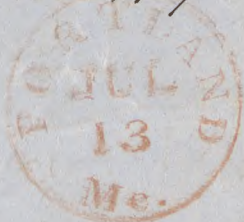
I believe no one has ever heard me speak of you, but in terms of respect and high regard. I have never thought otherwise of you. If I could earn any thing of posthumous fame, it would be the fame which William Lloyd Garrison will have as the pioneer in ^{the} Anti-Slavery Cause ^{in the United States,} and the true, and constant, and devoted friend of the oppressed. With esteem,

Your friend & obt. Serv^r
Samuel Fessenden.

P.S. I should have replied sooner, but a journey into the interior, to make an address on the 4th, has delayed this communication.

S. F.

Charge Box 409



PAID

Mr William Lloyd Garrison

Boston,

Mass